



State Senator

**Dan
Debicella**



PROTECTING THE HOUSATONIC RIVER

Friends,

The Housatonic River is one of Shelton's most precious natural resources, and recently we had a significant win to protect our environment. The State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) had ruled that Milford's Caswell Cove Marina could dump contaminated soil into Shelton's waters. Last week Mayor Mark Lauretti and I successfully reached an agreement with the DEP to stop the dumping and place the remaining materials in the well-established Central Long Island Sound Disposal Site.

Transporting the contaminated soil upstream to Shelton was a very poor decision for two reasons. First, it did not make any sense to move contaminated soil upstream from where it is currently located - the sediment will eventually just flow back downstream where it originally was, blanketing the river with contaminants. Second, the DEP did not solicit any input before making this decision, either from the public or from local officials. Fortunately that all changed once the DEP realized that this was not the right decision, and began to talk with concerned citizens in Shelton.

The solution we reached is government at its best - local officials, state officials, and private citizens working together to creatively solve a problem. The new disposal site in Long Island Sound will cap the contaminated soil beneath clean soil dredged from Milford Harbor, thus preventing pollutants from going into the Sound. The Housatonic River will be removed from the equation, and the progress we have made in cleaning the River will be maintained.

Many people deserve thanks for reaching this agreement. First, the DEP was extremely responsive to our concerns - thanks to the leadership of Governor Rell and Commissioner Gina McCarthy. Their willingness to be flexible allowed us to reach the new solution. Mayor Lauretti and State Representatives Larry Miller and Dick Belden were all active in getting the DEP to change their minds. Most importantly, the *Friends of the Housatonic River* organization brought concerned citizens together to fight for the River. Their total commitment to the issue was one of the prime reasons the DEP was willing to reconsider their decision.

I am personally committed to protecting our environment, and was glad I could play a part in the efforts to stop the dumping in the Housatonic River.

If you want more information on this agreement, or if there is anything I can do for you or your family, please do not hesitate to contact me at (800) 842-1421 or at dan.debicella@cga.ct.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dan', written in a cursive style.

Dan Debicella
State Senator